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SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA NO. 8

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MILITARY - JOINT ARMY-NAVY-AIR FORCE

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EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. Security Council Resolution on the Congo. Having exploited Lumumba's death to mount a huge campaign against the UN and Hammarskjold, Soviet propaganda was faced with a difficult problem in explaining the failure of the USSR to veto the Security Council resolution which provided for continued UN operations in the Congo and gave the Secretary General wider authority to employ troops under the UN command. The Soviet press thus far has attempted to finesse this problem by not reporting the full substance of the resolution and also by silence about the obvious fact that the resolution in effect endorses the UN and Hammarskjold's operations in the Congo. The press tried to put the best face it could on the resolution by claiming that the "imperialists" wanted no resolution at all, and that its passage therefore was a setback for them. Describing the resolution as one which provided half-measures, Soviet public media found some good in it because it calls for the withdrawal of Belgian personnel from the Congo.

Although the Soviet press reported that several communist countries have announced their decision to exchange diplomatic missions with the Gizenga regime (Communist China and Bulgaria) the USSR has not yet announced any such decision.

Meanwhile the press campaign and daily cartoons against Hammarskjold and western or Belgian colonialism and the converse effort to martyrize Lumumba continued with little abatement.

The attempt to keep the Congo issue from interfering with the Soviet wait-and-see attitude toward the new US Administration, noted in last week's WEEKA, was adhered to fairly strictly.

2. Revival of Diplomatic Activity over Laos. After editorial silence on Laos for over a month, Pravda on February 23 discussed the problem of an international conference on Laos and the revival of the ICC. The editorial, for the first time disclosed to the Soviet public that the Soviet Government has recently been in touch with the British Government on Laos, including a letter from Khrushchev to Macmillan. The article said that the British position has some good points in that it recognizes the relevance of the 1954 Indochina agreements but that it is weak in calling for the reactivization of the ICC as the first step to solve the Laotian crisis. It argued that the ICC would have no basis under international law to operate in Laos in view of the current state of war there and that it would take an international conference to provide the ICC with the proper terms of reference. Without indicating that the British January 21 proposal called for the ICC to address itself initially to the King, Pravda stated that under the Laotian Constitution, the King is the head of state and has no executive power and that executive power in Laos rests with the head of the "legal government," Prince Souvanna Phouma. The overall tone of the article was calm and unusually free from anti-western invective; the US was nowhere mentioned. Its main message was that an international conference would be the best way to settle the Laos problem.

Meanwhile the Soviet press indicated that stubborn fighting is under way in Laos owing to Phoumi's efforts to recapture the Plaine des Jarres. The press also reported the flare-up in Burma over the activities of the Kuomintang irregulars.

The Soviet press took no editorial position on King Savang's Neutral Nations Commission proposal, but it was clear from the fact that Soviet papers printed the rejection of the proposal by Prince Souphanuvong, on behalf of the Pathet Lao, and later the rejection by the "legal government of Laos, headed by Prince Souvanna Phouma," that Soviets have a negative attitude toward the proposal.

3. Africa. The Brezhnev trip to Guinea and Ghana dropped out of the news quickly after Brezhnev's return to Moscow and no significant follow-up commentary has appeared. The communique signed in Accra and published in all papers seemed from here to be unusually brief and free from any endorsements of Soviet policy in Congo.

Algiers. The Soviet press has virtually ignored the development of preparatory talks between France and Tunisia on Algeria. The only reference to date by the Soviets to these activities was a brief article in Pravda Feb. 24 in which a joint communique was reported following the meeting in Geneva of French and Algerian trade unionists. The article included the text of the communique which declared that the only way to resolve the Algerian crisis is by means of direct negotiations between the French government and the Provisional government of Algeria and insisted that any solution must provide for Algerian independence including Algerian freedom to establish economic and social systems of their choice.

4. "Novosti" (News) - The latest Moscow "News" Agency. On February 21, intentions announced earlier to form another Soviet news agency were implemented. "Representatives of Soviet public organizations" met at the House of Friendship in Moscow to organize a "founder's council." Later on, an organization charter will be drawn up for approval by this "founder's council." Supposedly Novosti is being set up in response to the great interest expressed abroad about the USSR and because of increased international contacts. Some idea of its real purpose can be gleaned from the published hope that the news agency will promote "the struggle for peace and friendship between peoples."

INTERNAL

5. Leadership. Excepting only N.A.MUKHITDINOV, absent from public view since January 5, all Moscow-resident members and candidate members of the Central Committee Presidium have been accounted for during the past week. Khrushchev again demonstrated his physical stamina by delivering still another major speech (not yet published) February 23 on the last day of a three-day conference of leading agricultural workers and officials of the central regions of the RSFSR, a conference which he actively monitored and guided by critical interjection and supplementary "expert comment" throughout its course in the same manner as at the recent comparable conferences in Kiev,

Rostov, Tbilisi and Veronezh. If he is to maintain the momentum of the agricultural reform and improvement campaign which, by personal appearances and exortations he has built up to a high pitch, it would seem probable that, as suggested in his January 17 CC Plenum speech, he will shortly perform a similar role in the virgin lands of the R[illegible] and Kazakhstan (most likely at conferences held in Orenburg and Akmolinsk respectively).

No rumors concerning the status of Mukhitdinov have come to the Embassy's attention nor have there been any further indications that A.P.ARISTOV (who presented his credentials as Soviet Ambassador in Warsaw on February 18) is likely to lose his membership on the CC Presidium. At a time when numerous local party and government officials are being shifted or removed in a process intended to improve agricultural efficiency and punish those held responsible for failings or abuses (see below), a probably deliberate reminder that there is to be no return to the excesses of Stalin's time was given by Pravda's and Izvestiya's listing of former party leader N.I.BELYAYEV as one of three members of the Supreme Soviet Presidium who were in the group of Soviet personages at the airport welcome of L.I.BREZHNEV when the latter returned from Africa and Hungary February 21.

Accounts of the return in lesser papers stopped short of naming persons so far down the protocol list but K. Ye. VOROSHILOV, also present as a Supreme Soviet Presidium member, was shown with the top party elite in the published photograph of the occasion. The latter's retention of considerably improved status as compared to a year ago was evidenced also by his being listed first, ahead even of Defense Minister Marshal R. Ya. MALINOVSKIY in the report of the February 22 festive meeting here on the eve of Soviet Armed Forces Day.

6. Khrushchev the Soldier-Liberator: Although it hardly would seem that Khrushchev needs additional fame and renown beyond that which he has already attained, the sporadic process of bolstering both his early revolutionary and World War II roles has continued. In his remarks at the opening to the agricultural conference in Tbilisi on February 6, Georgian First Secretary V.P. Mzhavanadze recalled that Khrushchev had first arrived in Georgia "in the ranks of the legendary eleventh army which by the order of Lenin came to the help of the working peoples which under the leadership of the Georgian bolsheviks had risen against the hated menshevik government." The leading Georgian journal Zarya Vostoka of February 22 contains considerable elaboration of this theme in an article "Pages of Military Glory" headed by blown-up portion of an old group photograph in the very center of which a serious young man is identified as Khrushchev. The photo, datelined Krasnodar, 1920, was said to be of members of the 9th Kuban army political section in a group of delegates to a Red Army conference. Although the article is supposed to cover the Soviet-bolshevik military assistance to the peoples of Georgia 1920-21 and real "heroes" of the time like Ordzhonikidze, Stalin, Kirov and Mikoyan and many others are given honorable mention, a good portion of the space and attention goes to Khrushchev following an introductory quotation of Marshal Budennyy which says that Khrushchev, commissar of the 2nd battalion of the 74th rifle company of the 9th division, was among these selfless revolutionary warriors who as company and battalion commanders and commissars played such an important part in the military successes.

Happily "coincidental" with the approach of Soviet Armed Forces Day, the journal Ogonyok, No. 8, of February 1961, carries as a two-page center spread a color reproduction of a previously exhibited ("Soviet Ukraine" exhibit in Moscow last November) painting "Liberation of Kiev" which shows a Khrushchev in general's uniform being bussed by a grateful inhabitant.

Somewhat less prominently, the journal "Soviet Warrior" (Sovetskiy Voin) No. 3, February 1961 includes a picture of uniformed "Member of Military Council of the Front N.S.Khrushchev" in an observation post with the commander of the 1st Ukrainian Front General Vatutin near Kiev in October 19. This photo appears with three others in a section entitled "pages of military history").

7. Local Government Changes: Tadzhistan: By Ukaz dated February 9, Makhfirat KARIMOVA has been designated a Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Tadzhikistan by the Republic Supreme Soviet (Kommunist of Tadzhikistan, Feb. 10).

On January 21, the State Committee of the Tadzhik Council of Ministers for Professional-Technical Education was transformed into the State Committee of Higher, Specialized-Secondary, and Professional-Technical Education of the Tadzhik Council of Ministers. (Kommunist of Tadzhikistan, Jan. 22). One Artuk SHAKIROV was designated State Committee Chairman.

Tadzhik CC member Gafur TAKHIROV was identified as Tadzhik "Minister of Trade" at a meeting of Republic party-economic activists (Kommunist of Tadzhikistan, Feb. 17). His promotion to minister again indicates that criticism in the communist system is not necessarily damaging. As Chairman of the Board of the Union of Consumers' Cooperatives, he had been criticized by Tadzhik first secretary UL'DZHABAYEV at the XIII Party Congress in February 1960.

Kazakhstan: An Ukaz of the Republic's Supreme Soviet dated February 16 designates Lashkar TAZHIBAYEV "Chairman of the State Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Kazakhstan SSR for the Utilization and Conservation of Surface and Subsurface Water Resources." This is the first indication to come to the Embassy's attention that Kazakhistan has established a State Committee analagous to that set up in the RSFSR by Ukase on August 18, 1960 (see Despatch No. 219 of September 27, 1960).

Azerbaidzhan: A.G.KERIMOV, who on December 26, 1959 was Azerbaidzhan Minister of Internal Affairs, attended a Baku Party plenum as a "Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers" (Bakinskiy Rabochiy, Feb. 18). Since it would be unusual for Kerimov to have retained his post as Internal Minister upon becoming a CM Deputy Chairman, he probably has left that post.

New Minister of Agriculture in Georgia: An Ukaz of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Georgia dated February 15 releases Sh. I. CHANUKVADZE from his post as Minister of Agriculture "in connection with transfer to other duties" (Zarya Vostoka, Feb. 16). Another Ukaz appointed one Bidzinu Abiatarovich YAKOBASHVALI to replace him. In view of criticism

of local leadership voiced by Khrushchev and others at the recent Tbilisi conference, it seems a reasonable presumption that CHANKVADZE is being demoted to a position of lesser responsibility.

8. Party Apparatus: In its report of the agricultural meeting in Voronezh addressed by Khrushchev, Pravda of February 11 identified I.S. PAN'KIN as chief of an unspecified Central Committee section (possibly Agitprop for RSFSR). Pan'kin last was identified as Stalingrad Oblast Executive Committee Chairman (Pravda, Dec. 5) -- a position he had helf for a number of years.

K. U. CHERNENKO, identified three years ago as chief of an unspecified CC section accompanied Presidium member (and Chief of State) L.I.BREZHNEV on his African tour in the role of "Chief of the Secretariat of the Chairman /Brezhnev/ of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet." (Izvestiya, Feb.20). This "secretariat," not previously known to the Embassy, may well exist although it is possible that this designation for Chernenko may have been a "cover" to explain his presence in quite a different capacity.

When CPSU Presidium members M.A.SUSLOV and O.V.KUUSINEN paid a Moscow hospital visit to ailing US Communist William Foster (Pravda, Feb. 18), they were accompanied by "deputy chief of section of the CC" V.G.KORIONOV. This suggests that Korionov may have responsibilities in connection with the (presumed to exist) American countries sector within the CC Foreign Section for non-bloc countries.

M.K.LAZURENKO, first secretary of Zhitomivskiy Oblast (west of Kiev), Ukraine, was replaced by CPSU CC member M.M.STAKHURSKIY at an organizational meeting following a plenum at which agricultural problems in the oblast were discussed (Pravda Ukrainy, Feb. 15). Ukrainian CC second secretary I. P. KAZANETS attended. The plenum noted serious inadequacies in agricultural leadership, low yields in all crops and failure to meet plan deliveries of agricultural products. No future duties were indicated for Lazurenko (who is also a member of the Central Auditing Committee of the CPSU).

M.P.KARPENKO has been elected first secretary of Semipalatinsk Oblast in Kazakhstan (Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, Feb. 8). He is the successor of S. DAULENOV who was released as first secretary in connection with his appointment as Chairman of the Kazakstan Council of Ministers on January 24 replacing Zh. A. TASHENEV who had been dismissed (Weeka No. 4).

New All-Union Agricultural Procurement Organization established by USSR Supreme Soviet Ukases dated February 20 (Pravda, Feb. 21): The new all-union agricultural procurement organization "Soyuzsel'khoztekhnik" called for by Khrushchev was established and its chairman named -- P.S.KUCHUMOV who recently has been a USSR Deputy Minister of Agriculture with earlier appropriate experience as Chief of the Ministry's Main Administration for Machine Tractor Stations. Most recently, he was present with the new USSR Minister of Agriculture OL'SHANSKIY and Khrushchev at the Transcaucasian agricultural conference in Tbilisi (see Economic Weeka No. 8 of Feb. 24).

MILITARY - JOINT ARMY-NAVY-AIR FORCE

(Negative)

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